

# NEPA HOTSHEET

**November 2015**

BLM Wyoming Land Use Plans and Proposed Projects

## **Resource Management Plans**

*RMP planning areas include all lands, regardless of jurisdiction; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction.*

**1. Bighorn Basin RMP Revision Project Environmental Impact Statement:** The Approved RMP and Record of Decision, signed Sept. 21, 2015, replaces the Washakie and Grass Creek RMPs in Worland and the Cody Field Office's Cody RMP. Upon signature, the Bighorn Basin RMP was split into separate RMPs for the Worland and Cody field offices. The planning area includes lands in all of Big Horn, Park and Washakie counties, and most of Hot Springs County in north-central Wyoming. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 3.2 million acres, and the federal mineral estate, totaling 4.2 million acres. Main issues include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro management, cultural resources management, lands and realty management and management of recreational uses of the BLM administered surface.

**Contact: Holly Elliott, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Office (307-347-5193)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html>

**2. Buffalo RMP Revision EIS:** The Approved RMP and ROD, signed Sept. 21, 2015, replaces the 1985 Buffalo RMP. The planning area includes lands within the BLM Buffalo Field Office administrative boundary in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in northeastern Wyoming. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 780,000 acres, and the federal mineral estate totaling 4.8 million acres. Main issues include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, cultural resources management, lands and realty management and management of recreational uses of the BLM administered surface.

**Contact: Thomas Bills, IDT Leader, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>

**3. Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Amendments EIS:** The Approved RMP Amendment and ROD, signed Sept. 21, 2015, amends six RMPs across the state (Newcastle, Casper, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer and Pinedale), and three U.S. Forest Service plans (Medicine Bow, Bridger-Teton and Thunder Basin National Grassland) to incorporate new management and conservation measures on priority sage grouse habitat. The planning area contains approximately 16 million acres of public surface land administered by the BLM and USFS and 16 million acres of federal oil and gas mineral (subsurface) estate.

**Contact: Pam Murdock, Senior Resource Advisor, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6259)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments.html>

**4. Lander RMP Revision EIS:** The 2014 ROD and Approved RMP, published on June 26, 2014, replace the 1987 Lander RMP. The RMP covers approximately 2.4 million acres of BLM-administered surface land and 2.8 million acres of federal mineral estate in Fremont, Natrona, Sweetwater, Carbon, and Hot Springs counties in west-central Wyoming. Main issues requiring revision include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro management, cultural resources management, management of congressionally-designated trails, Greater Sage-Grouse conservation (70 percent of the planning area has been designated as priority habitat), and management of recreational uses on BLM-administered lands. Implementation of the RMP and development of an adaptive management strategy for sage-grouse has begun. Cooperating agency and public meetings were held in September 2014. Implementation meetings started in March 2015.

**Contact: Kristin Yannone, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8448)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander.html>

**5. Rock Springs RMP Revision EIS:** The planning area includes lands within the BLM Rock Springs Field Office administrative boundary in Sweetwater, Lincoln, Uinta, Sublette, and Fremont counties in southwestern Wyoming. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 3.5 million acres, and the federal mineral estate, totaling 3.6 million acres. The revised RMP will replace the 1997 Green River RMP. Main issues include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro management, cultural resources management, lands, and realty management and management of recreational uses of the BLM-administered surface. A comprehensive travel and transportation plan for the entire field office, as well as an additional socioeconomic modeling effort coordinated with cooperating agencies are being incorporated into the RMP revision. In April 2013, the Department of the Interior, the BLM and the Rock Springs Grazing Association signed a consent decree requiring the BLM to initiate NEPA analysis to consider the environmental effects of modifying management levels of wild horses in specified herd management areas. A notice of intent was issued, initiating public scoping to amend the 2008 Rawlins RMP in conjunction with the Rock Springs RMP revision. Work on the RMP resumed in February 2015 following a 12-month hold to allow the Wyoming Sage-Grouse RMP Amendments to get ahead of the revision effort.

**NOI Issued:** Feb. 1, 2011

**NOI to re-open scoping period for Wild Horse Management:** Aug. 16, 2013

**Estimated Publication of Draft RMP/Draft EIS:** Second Quarter 2017

**Estimated Publication of Proposed RMP/Final EIS:** Third Quarter 2018

**Estimated Publication of ROD:** Second Quarter 2019

**Contact:** William West, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0259)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html>

**6. Rawlins Visual Resource Management Targeted RMP Amendment Environmental Assessment:**

The VRM Class decisions in the Rawlins RMP were remanded following protest resolution on the 2008 Rawlins Proposed RMP/Final EIS. BLM is amending the Rawlins RMP to incorporate new VRM class decisions based on a new visual resource quality inventory completed in 2010. The Rawlins planning area includes approximately 3.5 million acres of public land surface and 4.5 million acres of federal mineral estate in Laramie, Albany, Carbon and eastern Sweetwater counties. The decision area for the Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind Energy Development Project VRM planning review (742,000 acres) is excluded from the Rawlins RMP planning review as it was previously analyzed.

**NOI Issued:** April 11, 2012

**NOA Issued for Draft Amendment/EA:** August 2013

**Estimated Publication of EA and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact:** Early 2016

**Estimated Publication of Decision Record:** Early 2016

**Contact:** Jennifer Fleuret-McConchie, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4314)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/rawlins/VRM.html>

**7. Pinedale RMP Amendment EA:** The Pinedale Field Office has issued an NOI for an amendment to the Pinedale RMP. The EA amendment would remove an estimated 5,120 acres from future oil and gas leasing. These acres were part of the Trust for Public Land lease-buyout connected with PXP mineral leases. An IDT meeting including cooperating agencies was held in December 2014. The document continues to be drafted internally.

**NOI Issued:** May 9, 2014

**Contact:** Lauren McKeever, IDT Leader, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5300)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/pinedale/5120.html>

**8. Rawlins RMP Amendment EA:** The Rawlins Field Office has issued an NOI for an amendment to the Rawlins RMP. The EA amendment would remove an estimated 12,425 acres from future oil and gas leasing. These acres are located on federal mineral estate adjacent to the water sources for the municipalities of Rawlins, Saratoga, and Laramie, Wyoming.

**NOI Issued:** July 21, 2014

**Contact:** Jennifer Fleuret-McConchie, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4314)

## **Oil and Gas Development Projects**

**1. Blacks Fork EIS (Formerly Moxa Arch Area Infill):** The Blacks Fork project area is located within the Moxa Arch gas field in southwestern Wyoming and is comprised of 633,532 acres of mixed federal, state, and private lands in Sweetwater, Uinta, and Lincoln counties. The Kemmerer Field Office received a proposal submitted by the operators in the Moxa Arch gas field to infill drill additional natural gas wells that would facilitate gas extraction, maximize the economic recovery of the resource, and extend the production life of the field. The operators estimate that approximately 7,500 hydrocarbon wells on 1,000 well pads would be drilled over 20 years.

**NEPA Status:** The original NOI was published on Oct. 7, 2005. In December 2013, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation took the project over from the previous operator. In June 2014, Anadarko provided preliminary information for changes to the Moxa Arch Area Infill Project, including changing the project name to the Blacks Fork Hydrocarbon Development Project, increasing the total acreage, and revising the number of proposed wells. A new plan of development was submitted to BLM on Oct. 10, 2014. The project is currently on hold by the proponent due to commodity pricing.

**Contact: Travis Chewning, IDT Leader, Kemmerer Field Office (307-828-4518)**

[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/moxa\\_arch.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/moxa_arch.html)

**2. Continental Divide-Creston (CD-C) Natural Gas Project EIS:** The CD-C project is a combination of two proposals for EIS analysis, the Creston/Blue Gap and Continental Divide/Wamsutter II natural gas development projects. The proposed project area is located approximately 25 miles west of Rawlins, within Carbon and Sweetwater counties in southern Wyoming. The combined proposal includes 8,950 natural gas wells, including 100 to 500 coal bed natural gas wells. Proponents for this action are BP and nearly 20 other lease holders. The project area encompasses about 1.1 million acres of mixed federal, state, and private lands within the boundaries of the Rawlins Field Office. Wells would be developed using both vertical and horizontal drilling techniques. A 15-year construction period with a 30-50 year operational period is proposed.

**NEPA Status:** The DEIS was released for public comment on Dec. 7, 2012, and ended on March 6, 2013. Approximately 8,700 DEIS comments were received. The Final EIS is expected to be released in early 2016.

**Contact: Jennifer Fleuret-McConchie, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4314)**

[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/cd\\_creston.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/cd_creston.html)

**3. Hiawatha Field Project EIS:** QEP, along with Wexpro Company, propose to drill up to 2,200 exploratory and development wells in southern Sweetwater County, Wyoming, and northern Moffat County, Colorado. The proponents plan to drill new vertical, directional and horizontal natural gas wells many of which would be within the boundaries of the existing Hiawatha, Canyon Creek, and Trail units of southwest Wyoming and northwest Colorado. The project area of approximately 157,335 acres is located about 55 miles south of Rock Springs, Wyoming. About 66 percent of the proposed wells would be located in Wyoming, with the remainder in Colorado.

**NEPA Status:** An NOI was published on Sept. 6, 2006. The DEIS is being revised and a new project schedule has been prepared. The preliminary DEIS will be completed following cooperating agency review.

**Contact: Douglas Linn, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0237)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/hiawatha.html>

**4. Normally-Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project EIS:** The NPL project is located immediately south and west of the existing Jonah Gas Field within the BLM Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices in Sublette County, Wyoming, about 68 miles northwest of Rock Springs. The project encompasses 141,080 acres, 93 percent of which is BLM-administered land. Jonah Energy LLC is proposing up to 3,500 directionally-drilled wells over a period of 10 years. Most wells would be co-located on a single pad, with no more than four well pads being constructed per 640 acres. On average, each well pad would be 18 acres in size. Associated access roads, pipelines, compressor stations and other facilities would be co-located where possible to further minimize surface

disturbance. Jonah Energy would use no more than 10 natural gas drilling rigs on average to develop its interest.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI published on April 12, 2011. The BLM is finalizing updates to the proposed action and alternatives to meet air quality general conformance requirements and provisions of the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment. The DEIS is expected for release in May 2016 and the FEIS is scheduled for January 2017.

**Contacts:** Liz Dailey, Co-Project Manager, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5310)

Phillip Blundell, Co-Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0243)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/pfo/npl.html>

**5. Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS (formerly GMI):** Aethon Energy and Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company LP have proposed to develop up to 4,250 natural gas and oil wells and associated infrastructure within the proposed Moneta Divide Project area. The project area is located in Fremont and Natrona counties and encompasses approximately 265,000 acres of land. The life of the proposed project is estimated to be 40 years. Additional development would include pipelines to transport natural gas from the gas field to downstream pipelines near Wamsutter, Wyoming, in the Rawlins Field Office. Also proposed are pipelines to transport treated produced water to Boysen Reservoir. The untreated and/or by-product brine from treated produced water would be transported via pipelines to two underground disposal areas. One of the disposal areas is located adjacent to the production area and the other is located approximately 15 miles south of the gas field. The Lander Field Office is the lead for this project. The Casper Field Office may need to amend the Casper RMP as part of this project.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI to prepare an EIS published on Jan. 17, 2013. Public scoping meetings were held in mid-February 2013 in Riverton, Lander and Casper. The scoping period closed at the end of March 2013. The DEIS is scheduled for release in late fall of 2016.

**Contact:** Chris Krassin, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8452)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/moneta-divide.html>

**6. Bird Canyon Field Infill Project EIS:** Koch Exploration and Memorial Resource Development propose to drill additional oil and gas wells in the Bird Canyon Field to facilitate product extraction and to maximize the economic recovery of the resource. The Bird Canyon Field encompasses 17,612 acres of BLM-administered surface lands in Sublette and Lincoln counties in southwestern Wyoming. The operators have proposed to drill 348 new gas wells in the project area over 10-20 years. The proposal is entirely within the marginal non-attainment area for ozone.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI to prepare an EIS was published on May 9, 2014. Public scoping meetings were held in Rock Springs and Marbleton, Wyoming, on May 29-30, 2014, and the scoping period ended on June 16, 2014. Eleven individuals and organizations commented on the project. An alternatives development workshop was held on Nov. 5-6, 2014. The DEIS is anticipated to be released in mid-2016.

**Contact:** Spencer Allred, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0325)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/birdcanyon.html>

**7. Horseshoe Basin Unit Project EA:** The Rock Springs Field Office received a proposal submitted by Devon Energy Production Company, LP to develop up to 20 new oil or gas wells within the Horseshoe Basin Unit. The Horseshoe Basin Unit is located in southwestern Wyoming, approximately 55 miles southeast of Rock Springs. The project area encompasses 24,972 acres of primarily federal land, with a small amount of state and privately owned land. Devon Energy would develop two wells per year during the next 10 years, with the life of the project anticipated to be 20 to 30 years. The Horseshoe Basin Unit was developed in 2005 and presently has two gas wells and associated roads, pipelines, and a centralized production facility.

**NEPA Status:** The BLM received the project description in February 2013. Public scoping, which ended June 5, 2013, produced comments from seven different entities in which all seem to promote the project. The project is currently on hold due to a change in operator. Linn Energy, the current proponent, will later decide to continue as planned, make changes to, or eliminate the project altogether.

**Contact: Brandon Teppo, Natural Resource Specialist, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0318)**  
<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/HorseshoeBasin.html>

**8. Converse County Oil and Gas Project EIS:** The Casper Field Office received a proposal from a group of six companies to develop up to 5,000 new oil or gas wells in northern Converse County, Wyoming. The project area encompasses roughly 1.5 million acres of split estate mixed surface ownership lands. The operators propose to develop the wells over 10 years, with the life of the project anticipated to be 20 to 30 years. The project includes all or parts of three different sage-grouse core areas.

**NEPA Status:** An NOI to prepare an EIS published on May 16, 2014. Public scoping concluded on June 30, 2014, with 90 comments received. The BLM is currently working with cooperators to develop a range of alternatives. A DEIS is anticipated in late 2016, with the FEIS slated for late 2017 or early 2018.

**Contact: Mike Robinson, Project Manager, Casper Field Office (307-261-7520)**  
[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/cfo/Converse\\_County\\_Oil\\_and\\_Gas.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/cfo/Converse_County_Oil_and_Gas.html)

**9. Riley Ridge to Natrona EIS:** The project consists of a 243-mile pipeline through Fremont, Sublette, Sweetwater and Natrona counties. The pipeline project was applied for under two separate ROW applications: the Riley Ridge Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and the Bairoil-to-Natrona CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline. The Riley Ridge segment would include 31 miles of 16-inch pipeline transporting non-gaseous hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and CO<sub>2</sub> from the existing Riley Ridge Treating Plant 18 miles southwest of Big Piney to a proposed sweetening plant 12 miles northeast of LaBarge. At the proposed sweetening plant, H<sub>2</sub>S would be separated from the H<sub>2</sub>S and CO<sub>2</sub> stream and injected into a deep geological formation via two proposed H<sub>2</sub>S injection wells. From the sweetening plant, a 24-inch pipeline would transport the remaining CO<sub>2</sub> 129 miles through Sublette and Sweetwater counties to the Bairoil (Exxon) Interconnect 50 miles northwest of Rawlins. The Bairoil-to-Natrona segment would include 83 miles of 24-inch pipeline transporting CO<sub>2</sub> from the Bairoil Interconnect through Fremont and Natrona counties to the existing Greencore Pipeline where the project ends at the Natrona Hub 30 miles west of Casper. The CO<sub>2</sub> would eventually be used for enhanced oil recovery in the Bell Creek Unit oil field in southeastern Montana.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI was published on June 9, 2014. Public scoping meetings were held July 14-17, 2014. The DEIS is scheduled for release in March 2016 and the FEIS is expected to be released in November 2016.

**Contact: Mark Mackiewicz, National Project Manager, Washington Office (435-636-3616)**  
<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/RRNP.html>

**10. Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project EIS:** The Buffalo Field Office received a proposal from EOG Resources to develop up to 1,500 new oil and gas wells in Campbell and Converse counties in eastern Wyoming. The project area encompasses roughly 120,000 acres of split estate mixed surface ownership lands within the BLM Buffalo and Casper field offices and the USFS Douglas Ranger District. There are no BLM-administered lands within the project area; however, approximately 64 percent of the mineral estate is managed by the BLM. Surface lands managed by the Forest Service and the state of Wyoming make up roughly 13,000 acres of the area. EOG proposes developing the wells over 10 years, with the life of the project anticipated to be 20 to 30 years. The project is not within sage-grouse core area.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI was published on Oct. 26, 2015. An initial cooperating agency meeting and public scoping meetings will be held approximately 15-30 days following the NOI publication.

**Contact: Tom Bills, Project Manager, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133)**

**11. Desolation Road EA:** Samson Resources proposes to drill up to 17 wells on up to five well pads in the Desolation Road Unit in southwestern Wyoming. The proposed well pads are located within 2 miles of the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area, with the closest well pad located about 1,000 feet from the WSA boundary. Total project disturbance is anticipated to be approximately 117 acres. The project is within a Class II visual resource management area and contains designated pronghorn antelope crucial winter range as well as potential habitat for raptors and mountain plover.

**NEPA Status:** Scoping was reinitiated on Oct. 10, 2014, due to a significant change in the proposed project. The public scoping period ended Nov. 14, 2014. Nineteen individuals/organizations provided comments on the proposed project. Alternatives for the project were developed in January 2015. In July 2015 Samson Resources sold the Desolation Road Unit to Mustang Resources. The BLM is currently coordinating with Mustang Resources to determine how the new unit operator plans to move forward with this project.

**Contact: Spencer Allred, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0325)**

[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/Desolation\\_Plan.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/Desolation_Plan.html)

**12. North Dutch John Unit #1 EA:** Azalea Oil Company proposes to drill a single exploratory well in the North Dutch John Unit in southwestern Wyoming. The proposed well pad is located on Iron Mountain, approximately 17 miles north of the town of Dutch John, Utah and 6 miles east of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Total project disturbance is anticipated to be approximately 10.4 acres. The project is within a Class III visual resource management area and contains designated elk and mule deer crucial winter range.

**NEPA Status:** Scoping was initiated on Nov. 22, 2013, and ended on Feb. 4, 2014. A total of 368 sets of comments were received. The EA is expected to be released in early 2016.

**Contact: Ted Inman, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0388)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/NdutchjohnUnit1.html>

### **Upcoming Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sales**

[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/energy/Oil\\_and\\_Gas/Leasing.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/energy/Oil_and_Gas/Leasing.html)

- **High Desert District – Nov. 3, 2015**
  - 39 sale parcels
  - 61,353.72 acres
  
- **High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin districts – Feb. 2, 2016**

(As of Nov. 12, 2015, the scheduled release of the Sale Notice has been postponed, pending further review.)

  - **HPD**
    - 52 sale parcels
    - 46,006 acres
  - **WRBB**
    - 65 parcels
    - 76,427 acres

### **Wind Energy Projects**

**Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind Farm Project EIS and EAs:** Power Company of Wyoming submitted an application requesting a ROW across public lands to site approximately 1,000 wind turbines, access roads, transmission lines and associated infrastructure. The project area is located south of Rawlins, Wyoming, within the checkerboard land pattern. The project encompasses approximately 220,000 acres, 102,000 acres of which are public lands.

**NEPA Status:** The ROD was signed by the Secretary of the Interior on Oct. 9, 2012. However, additional site-specific, tiered EAs are required prior to issuance of any ROWs. An Avian Protection Plan and Eagle Conservation Plan are being developed by the proponent in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cooperator and scoping meetings were held in September 2013 for NEPA

analysis for the haul road, rail facility and quarries. Public meetings on phase I turbine development were held in Rawlins and Saratoga on Dec. 16-17, 2013. FWS is concurrently working on a separate EIS for an Eagle Take Permit for the project. A DR for EA 1 for infrastructure components of the project was signed by the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals on Dec. 23, 2014. A DR for EA 2 for the construction of up to 500 turbines is anticipated for November 2015.

**Contact: Heather Schultz, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4215)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html>

### **Transmission Projects**

**1. Gateway South Transmission Line Project EIS:** PacifiCorp, doing business as Rocky Mountain Power, submitted an application to the BLM requesting a ROW across public lands to site a single-circuit 500 kV transmission line from the Aeolus Substation near Medicine Bow, Wyoming, to the Clover Substation near Mona, Utah, a total distance of approximately 400-425 miles. This line would carry renewable wind and thermal energy from Wyoming to Rocky Mountain Power customers in Utah to serve load and growth needs for transmission, and provide reliability and redundancy to their system. The requested ROW width is 250 feet. The route would cross the Rawlins Field Office, as well as other BLM offices in Colorado and Utah, and three USFS offices in Utah. The USFS is a key cooperating agency in assisting the BLM (lead) to prepare the EIS.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI was published on April 1, 2011. Public scoping was completed June 3, 2011. The DEIS was published Feb. 21, 2014. The FEIS is anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2015.

**Contact: Tamara Gertsch, National Project Manager, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6115)**

[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway\\_south.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway_south.html)

**2. TransWest Express Transmission Line Project EIS:** TransWest Express, LLC submitted a revised ROW application in January 2010 (initially filed in 2008) to construct a 600 kV high-voltage direct current transmission line designed to carry up to 3,000 MW from south-central Wyoming, through Colorado and Utah, and ending southeast of Las Vegas. The total distance is roughly 725 miles. BLM Wyoming was designated as the lead state for the project. The Western Area Power Administration entered into a memorandum of understanding accepting joint lead for the NEPA process in 2010, with BLM retaining the lead for the NHPA Section 106 consultation and Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation. The project is proposed to carry renewable energy generated in Wyoming to the Southwest. The proposed route crosses 490 miles of federal lands. The route also spans three national forests and 235 miles of private and state lands. The ROW requested width is typically 250 feet. An additional 1,478 miles of alternatives are analyzed in the EIS.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI published in January 2011. The DEIS was published July 3, 2013. Roughly 1,000 comments were received. The FEIS was published May 1, 2015. The ROD is anticipated for late March 2016.

**Contact: Sharon Knowlton, Project Manager, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6124)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html>

### **Solid Mineral Projects**

**1. Rawhide Coal Lease Modification EA:** Peabody Caballo Mining, LLC submitted an application requesting a lease modification for the Rawhide Mine. The requested modification consists of adding a 291 acre tract to the Rawhide lease.

**NEPA Status:** Public scoping ended on Feb. 17, 2015. The preliminary draft EA is in preparation.

**Contact: Sarah Bucklin, Project Manager, High Plains District Office (307-261-7541)**

**2. Tata Sodium Leasing EA:** Tata Chemicals submitted a lease application to expand its existing trona mining operation 10 miles southwest of Green River, Wyoming. The proposed expansion totals 400 acres of BLM-administered federal mineral estate. This lease would expand Tata's current operation, which consists of an underground trona mine and associated soda ash plant.

**NEPA Status:** Public scoping ended on May 2, 2015. BLM is currently reviewing the draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact.

**Contact:** Travis Chewning, IDT Leader, Kemmerer Field Office (307-828-4539)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/sodium.html>

**3. Sheep Mountain Uranium Project EIS:** Originally submitted by Titan Uranium USA Inc., the project consists of an open pit and underground uranium mine with on-site heap leach processing within a 3,625 acre project area, of which 2,313 acres are BLM surface and 2,836 acres are federal minerals.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI was published on Aug. 23, 2011. The proponent merged with Energy Fuels Resources, Inc. in February 2012. Several revisions to the Plan of Operations were submitted; the latest being received in October 2015. The DEIS was published on Jan. 16, 2015. A public meeting for the DEIS was held on Jan. 28, 2015, in Lander, Wyoming. The 45-day public comment period closed on March 2, 2015. The Final EIS is scheduled for release in the summer of 2016.

**Contact:** Tom Sunderland, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8412) or

Chris Krassin, Project Coordinator, Lander Field Office (307-332-8400)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html>

**4. Bridger Coal Lease Modification EA:** Bridger Coal Company submitted an application requesting a lease modification for the Bridger Coal Mine. The requested modification consists of adding a 120.02 acre tract to an existing Bridger Coal lease. All proposed disturbance is underground with no new surface disturbance.

**NEPA Status:** Public scoping ended on Jan. 16, 2015, resulting in two sets of public comments. The EA is currently under review and is expected to be released in late-2015.

**Contact:** Ted Inman, Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0388)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/bridgercoal.html>

**5. Black Butte Coal Lease Modification EA:** Black Butte Coal Company submitted an application requesting a lease modification for the Black Butte Coal Mine. The requested modification would add 448.6 acres of surface disturbance to an existing Black Butte Coal lease.

**NEPA Status:** Public scoping ended on Dec. 9, 2014, resulting in a single public comment. The EA is currently under review and is expected to be released in early 2016.

**Contact:** Ted Inman, Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0388)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/BlackButteCoal.html>

**6. Lost Creek Uranium In Situ Recovery (ISR) Project Modifications EIS:** Lost Creek ISR LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ur-Energy Inc., requests to modify their Lost Creek Uranium ISR Plan of Operations, which was approved in October 2012. The proposed mining expansion consists of two proposals. The Lost Creek East modification would add a new project area totaling approximately 5,750 acres to the existing Lost Creek Project area of approximately 4,254 acres, and result in approximately 241 acres of new surface disturbance. The KM Horizon modification would allow in-situ mining of uranium from the deeper KM Horizon, while increasing the extent of mining in the existing HJ horizon, within the project area approved Oct. 5, 2012, and add approximately 78 acres of additional surface disturbance.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI was published on Sept. 14, 2015, and public scoping ended Nov. 2.

**Contact:** John Russell, Project Manager, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4252)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/lostcreek.html>

**7. Wyo-Ben Bend-Cowley Plan Modification EA:** The Bend-Cowley Plan Modification proposes to expand eleven Wyo-Ben bentonite mine pits located approximately eight miles north of Lovell, Wyoming, in Big Horn County. The plan modification encompasses roughly 535 acres and is anticipated to last twelve years through completion of mining and reclamation.

**NEPA Status:** The EA was released on Oct. 1, 2015, and the public comment period ended on Oct. 30.

**Contact:** Bradley Johnson, IDT Lead, Cody Field Office (307-578-5928)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/cyfo/wyo-ben.html>